

E-005349

# Memorandum

Date : MAR 18 1999

To : Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

From : Department of Water Resources

Subject: Process for Assessing Impacts

I am sending this letter as co-chair of the CALFED Ops Group to confirm and update the information presented by Katherine Kelly to the CALFED Policy Group on March 10, 1999 regarding the process for assessing potential impacts associated with implementing the spring pulse flow on the San Joaquin River this year.

The computer modeling studies illustrating the operation of the reservoirs in the San Joaquin River basin with and without the spring pulse flow are completed. These studies have been distributed to the CALFED NoName Group and will be discussed by that group on Thursday, March 19. The CALFED Ops Group will discuss any potential impacts identified by the studies and the plan developed for their mitigation, if necessary, at its meeting on March 23. We hope to agree within the Ops Group that the pulse flow will proceed with minimal impacts to flows, water quality, or reservoir storage this year.

Several of the interested third parties and representatives of the San Joaquin River Group Authority do not regularly attend the Ops Group meetings. We will contact them directly, in addition to sending them a copy of this letter, to make sure they know the evaluation of the 1999 spring pulse flow operation plan will be discussed during the Ops Group meeting.

It is our intent that the long-term process for evaluating the plan be done under the auspices of the San Joaquin River Agreement. Although the agreement is not final, the signatories to the Statement of Support for the agreement are using the process defined in the draft agreement to implement this year's pulse flow. The draft agreement directs a committee consisting of technical representatives of the signatories to implement the pulse flow. This committee coordinates flow releases, exports, fish barrier operation, and monitoring to ensure the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan is implemented as planned. Members of this committee may, by unanimous vote, invite other technical specialists to join. Additionally, the management committee for the agreement may appoint other technical specialists. Any disagreements within

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the technical committee can be elevated to the management committee, which consists of one representative of each signatory to the agreement or, for this year, the Statement of Support.

Using the process described in the draft agreement will require expanding the tasks of the technical committee to include the evaluation of operation plans for potential impacts and the development of mitigation actions if necessary. It will also require representatives of the interested third-parties be brought into the committee. Accomplishing these changes will take some time. In the interim, we will rely upon the Ops Group for resolving any concerns regarding the potential impacts of this year's pulse flow. Should the Ops Group be unable to reach resolution, the issue will be quickly referred back to the management committee of the agreement, as well as elevated to the CALFED Policy Group per the established CALFED Ops decision process.

A summary of the discussion in the Ops Group of the pulse flow evaluation will be sent to you shortly after the meeting on March 23. If you wish to discuss this further, please contact Katherine Kelly at (916) 653-1099.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
STEPHEN L. KASHIWADA**

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cc: (See Attached List.)

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